

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4947

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, CAP

SUBJECT: MBFR: NATO COMMON FACILITY

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: STATE 197180

SUMMARY: MISSION ACHIEVED ALLIED AGREEMENT TO PRECEDENT-BREAKING
20 PERCENT FOR U.S. SHARE IN FUNDING COMMON FACILITY IN VIENNA.
CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR U.S. TO MOVE AT OPPORTUNE
MOMENT AND SECURE WHAT WAS CLEARLY THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL.
END SUMMARY

1. IN ADDITION TO A SITE FOR CONDUCTING EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS
WITH WARSAW PACT MEMBERS, THE ALLIES INCLUDING THE U.S., DECIDED
ON MAY 23, 1973 THAT THEY NEEDED AN ON-THE-SPOT COORDINATING
FORUM IN VIENNA WHERE ALLIES MIGHT CONDUCT CONTINUOUS AND CLOSE
CONSULTATION UNDER SECURE CONDITIONS AS ACTUAL MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS UNFOLD.

2. AT U.S. URGING ALLIES PARED ORIGINAL ESTIMATES FOR A COMMON
FACILITY IN VIENNA SEVERELY AND DETERMINED THAT THE RENNWEG
BUILDING WAS THE SMALLEST AND LEAST EXPENSIVE FACILITY FILLING
BASIC ALLIED REQUIREMENTS. MOST ALLIES STRONGLY FAVORED NAILING
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DOWN AGREEMENT ON THIS BUILDING SINCE THEY JUDGED THAT A LESS
EXPENSIVE COMMON FACILITY COULD NOT BE FOUND IN TIME, IF AT ALL,
THUS JEOPARDIZING THE PRACTICE OF CLOSE ALLIED CONSULTATION.

3. DURING NATO DISCUSSIONS ON A COST-SHARING FORMULA, U.S. DELAYED MAKING ANY COMMITMENT TO ANY SPECIFIC FACILITY AND THUS USED THE DESIRE OF OTHER ALLIES TO CLINCH THE DEAL ON RENNWEG AS A BARGAINING COUNTER TO REDUCE THE U.S. SHARE IN FUNDING A COMMON FACILITY. SEVERAL FORMULAS WERE DEBATED INCLUDING A PROPOSED 24.2 U.S. CONTRIBUTION (OUR ACTUAL PERCENTAGE IN THE NATO CIVIL BUDGET). ON OCTOBER 3, JUST AS NATO'S OPTION ON RENNWEG LAPSED, THE ALLIES FINALLY YIELDED AND AGREED TO A U.S. LEVEL OF 20 PERCENT IN RETURN FOR OUR WILLINGNESS TO AUTHORIZE SIGNING A CONTRACT FOR RENNWEG. TWENTY PERCENT (20 PERCENT) IS, AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE LOWEST COST-SHARING FORMULA THE U.S. HAS EVER ACHIEVED.

4. I BELIEVE THE U.S. SECURED A FAVORABLE DEAL;
AND WOULD HOPE TO DO AS WELL IN THE FUTURE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE
HERE WHICH INDICATES THAT THE U.S. COULD HAVE ACHIEVED A BETTER
DEAL BY HOLDING OUT LONGER.
RUMSFELD

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